2/4/03 #8 Amdt A

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Jennifer China	Jennifer China	January 17, 2003
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF
JUX ET AL.
APPLICATION NO: 09/766,725
FILED: JANUARY 22, 2001
FOR: METHOD FOR MARKING A LAMINATED FILM MATERIAL

Examiner:
Martin J. Angebranndt
Art Unit: 1756

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT A

Dear Sir:

The Office Action dated September 13, 2002 from Examiner Martin J. Angebranndt of Art Unit 1756 has been received and reviewed. The following is in response thereto.

In the specification:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

A1

This is a conintuation of International Application No. PCT/EP99/05175, filed July 20, 1999 and published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which claim the benefit under35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of European Patent Application No. 98113623.7, filed July 22, 1998.

Please add the following paragraphs between the second and third paragraphs on page 5 as follows:

The present laser printing process is particularly suitable for a blister package having a flexible laminate film cover, e.g., a blister contact lens package. An exemplary blister contact lens package is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,609,246 to Borghorst. In general, a blister package for a contact lens has a rigid blister container and a flexible laminate film cover that is thermally or adhesively attached to the opening of the blister package. The laminate cover is designed to be flexible such that the covering material can be easily handled when the laminate covering material is applied on the package during the production process and when the covering material is removed by the consumer. The laminate covering material has at least an outer thermoplastic layer and a backing layer. The outer thermoplastic layer is produced from a film-forming thermoplastic polymer, including polyolefin, e.g., polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene and copolymers thereof; polyester, e.g., polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and copolymers thereof; and polyvinyl chloride. The outer layer is a protective layer that provides a printable surface, and the backing layer provides moisture and gas barrier properties. Suitable materials for the backing layer include metals, e.g., aluminum; and thermoplastic polymers, e.g, polyolefin, polyester, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl alcohol or acrylonitrile polymer, although a metal is preferred. Preferably, the backing layer is produced from a material that has a higher thermal decomposition temperature than the thermoplastic of the upper layer. Additionally, the laminate covering material can have additional layers including a thermoplastic film inner layer, which is adjacently placed to the backing layer so that the inner layer can act as an adhesive layer that attaches the laminate film cover to the blister container. The flexible laminate film cover material can be provided as a roll that is suitably configured for an on-line printing process.

A2

In general, a contact lens is produced, inspected and placed in a blister container along with an amount of an isotonic saline solution. Then the film cover, which has been cut to cover the opening and certain exposed portion of the blister container, is placed over the container and affixed or sealed, e.g., thermally, to the container around the opening. The present printing process is highly flexible printing process that can print the flexible film cover before or after it is cut from the roll and even after it is placed and affixed to the package. The present printing process is especially suitable for printing variable information, e.g., lot number, expiration date, power and the like, on the flexible film cover. One of advantages of the present process is that the laser printing process is a highly flexible and robust process that can impart clear and legible information even on a non-uniformly planar surface. This flexible nature of the present invention is highly important in that the flexible laminate cover tends to form a wavy surface and tends to buckle up unattached sections. Accordingly, conventional variable information printing processes, such as thermal transfer